



Recreational Fisheries



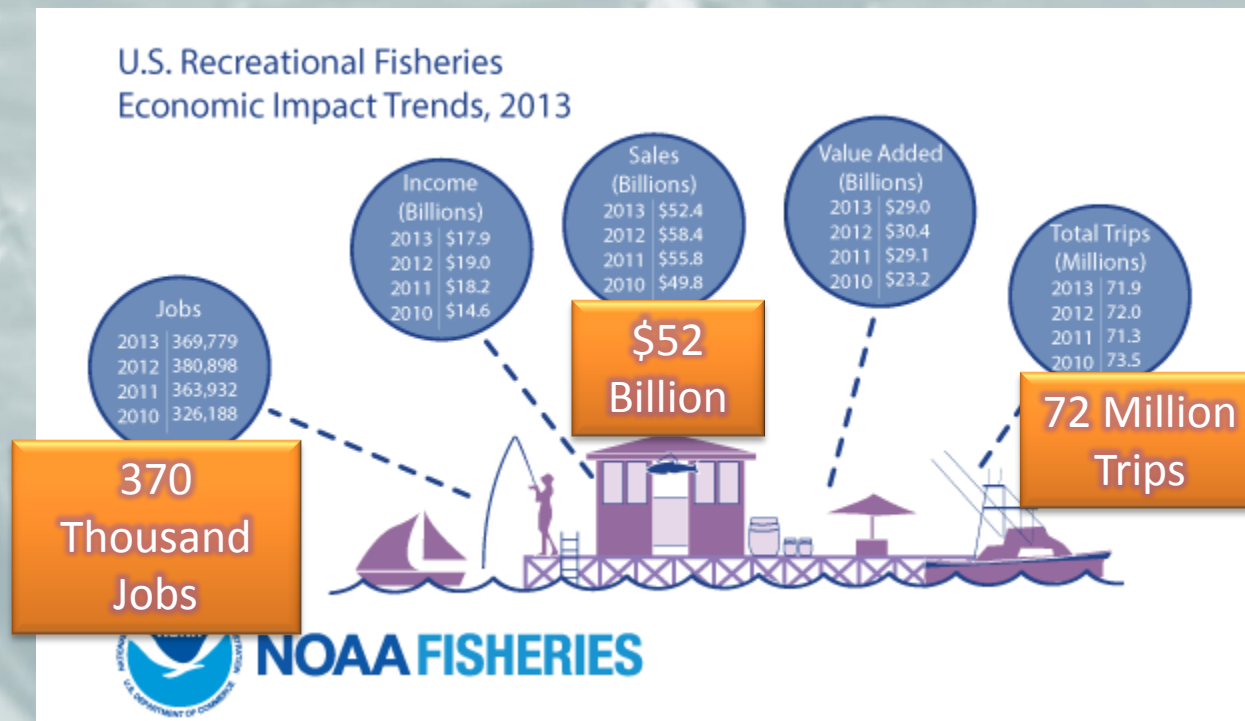
A Priority in motion at NOAA

U.S. Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration
NOAA Fisheries

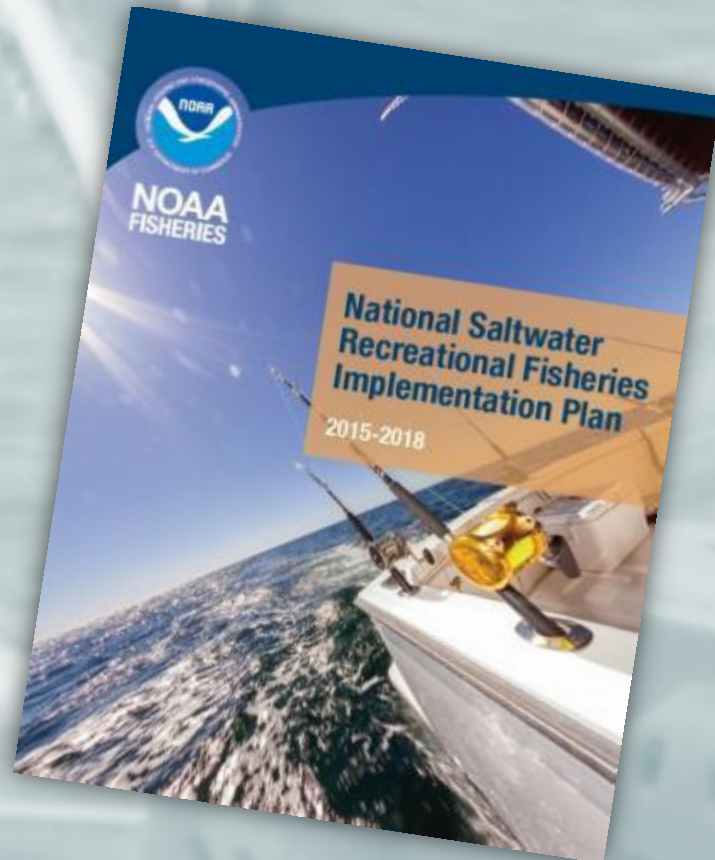
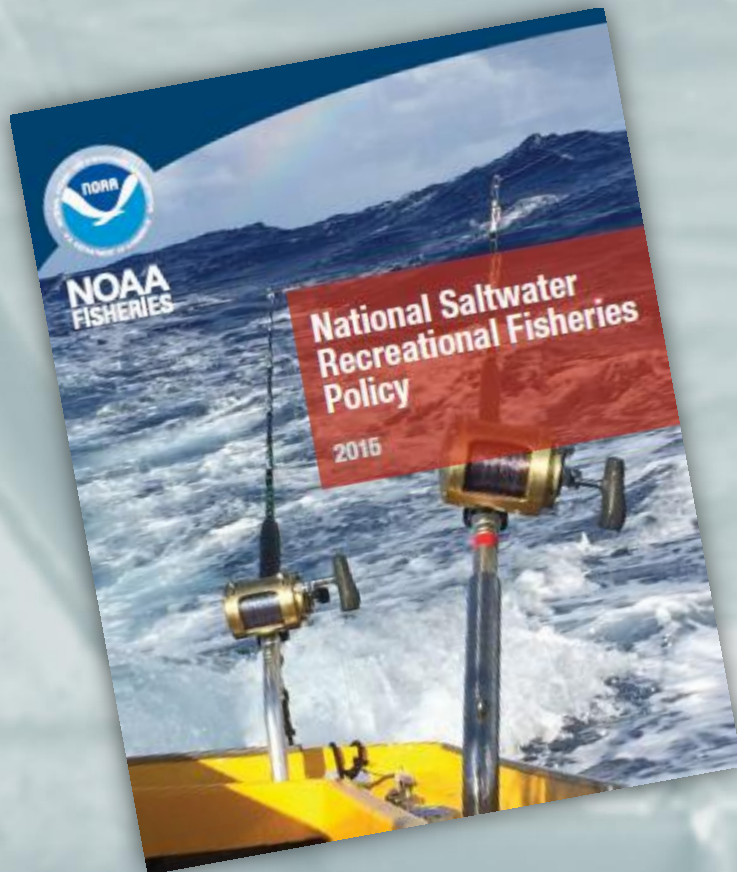
Discussion Agenda

- **National Recreational Fisheries Policy Implementation**
Status Update
- **Regional Recreational Fisheries Implementation Plans**
- **Marine Recreational Information Program**
Status Update

Saltwater Recreational Fishing is BIG Business



Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Policy & Implementation Plan



It is the policy of NMFS to:

“...foster, support, and enhance a broadly accessible and diverse array of sustainable saltwater recreational fisheries for the benefit and enjoyment of the nation.”

Goals

1. Support and maintain sustainable saltwater recreational fisheries resources, including habitats
2. Promote saltwater recreational fishing for the benefit of the nation
3. Enable enduring participation in saltwater recreational fishing through science-based conservation and management

National Implementation Plan Update

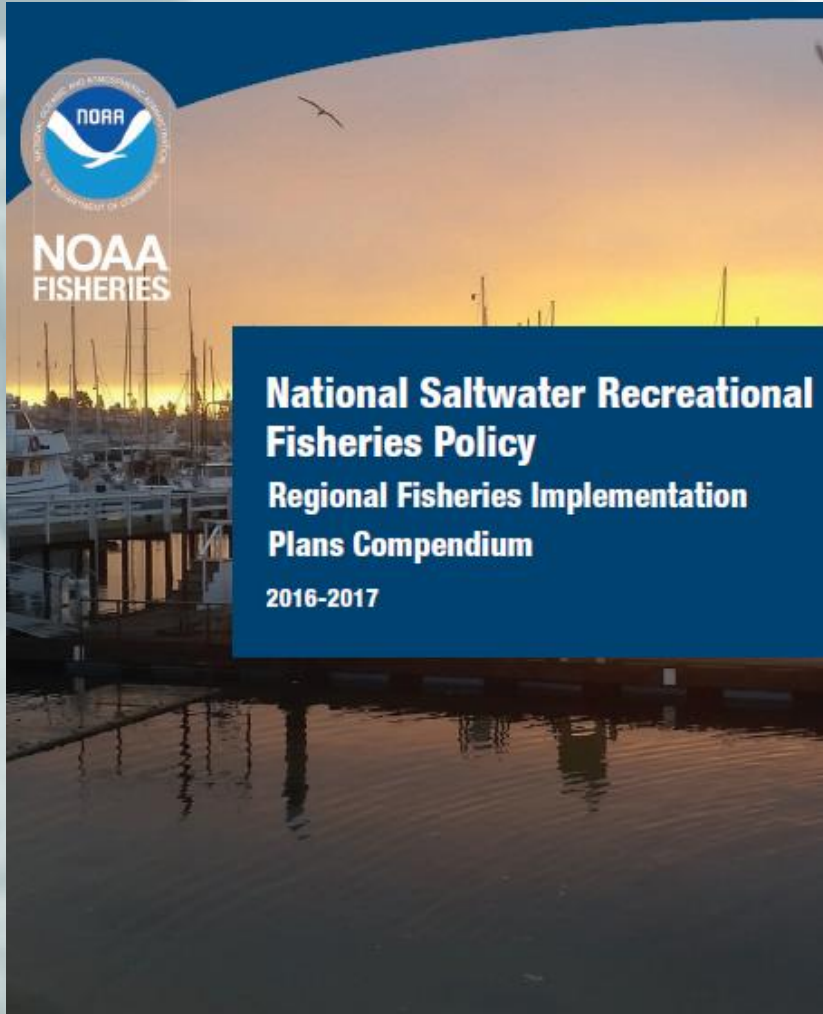
Year 1 progress

69 Commitments over four year time-frame

| Project Status | Number |
|---|--------|
| Completed / Substantial Progress* | 30 |
| Initiated with some / moderate progress | 15 |
| Total* | 45/69 |

Recreational Fisheries Policy

Regional Implementation Plans



- Support NOAA Fisheries Core Mission and Recreational Fisheries Policy
- Developed in consultation with recreational community and management partners
- Region specific tangible commitments
- All five NOAA Fisheries Regions and Atlantic HMS Management Division
- 2 year time-frame
- <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov>

Regional Implementation Plans

| Region | Objective |
|------------------|---|
| Greater Atlantic | Improve coordination w/ States on recreational fisheries data gathering, analytical techniques and improved estimates of fishing effort and catch |
| | Collaborate on the development of critical science priorities and data to improve stock assessments / inform fisheries management. |
| Southeast Region | Collaborate with USVI territorial government to characterize the USVI recreational fishery |
| | Continue to support state efforts to improve recreational fishery data |

Regional Implementation Plans

| Region | Objective |
|-----------------|---|
| Pacific Islands | Collaborate with the state (HI) to document the status of fishing access infrastructure |
| | Engage the State through the habitat blueprint to foster product fish habitat capable of fostering sustainable fish populations |
| Atlantic HMS | Explore ways to bolster compliance, education, and outreach on Atlantic HMS issues. |
| | Collaborate with states and territories on fisheries data collection efforts. |

MRIP

Programmatic Update



MRIP Update:

National Academies of Sciences Review

Meeting 1 *February,*
Washington DC

- Introduction and history of MRIP
- Response to the 2006 review
- New catch rate estimation method for the Access Point Angler Intercept Survey (APAIS)

Meeting 2
April, Charleston, SC

- New APAIS design
- New Fishing Effort Survey
- MRIP transition planning

Each meeting:

- Presentations from:
 - external technical experts
 - representatives from regional partners and stakeholders (e.g. Fishery Information Networks, Councils, etc.)
 - state partners
- Public comment sessions

Upcoming meetings:

- Meeting 3 – May 26-28, New Orleans, LA
- Meeting 4 – July, Irvine, CA (*tentative*)

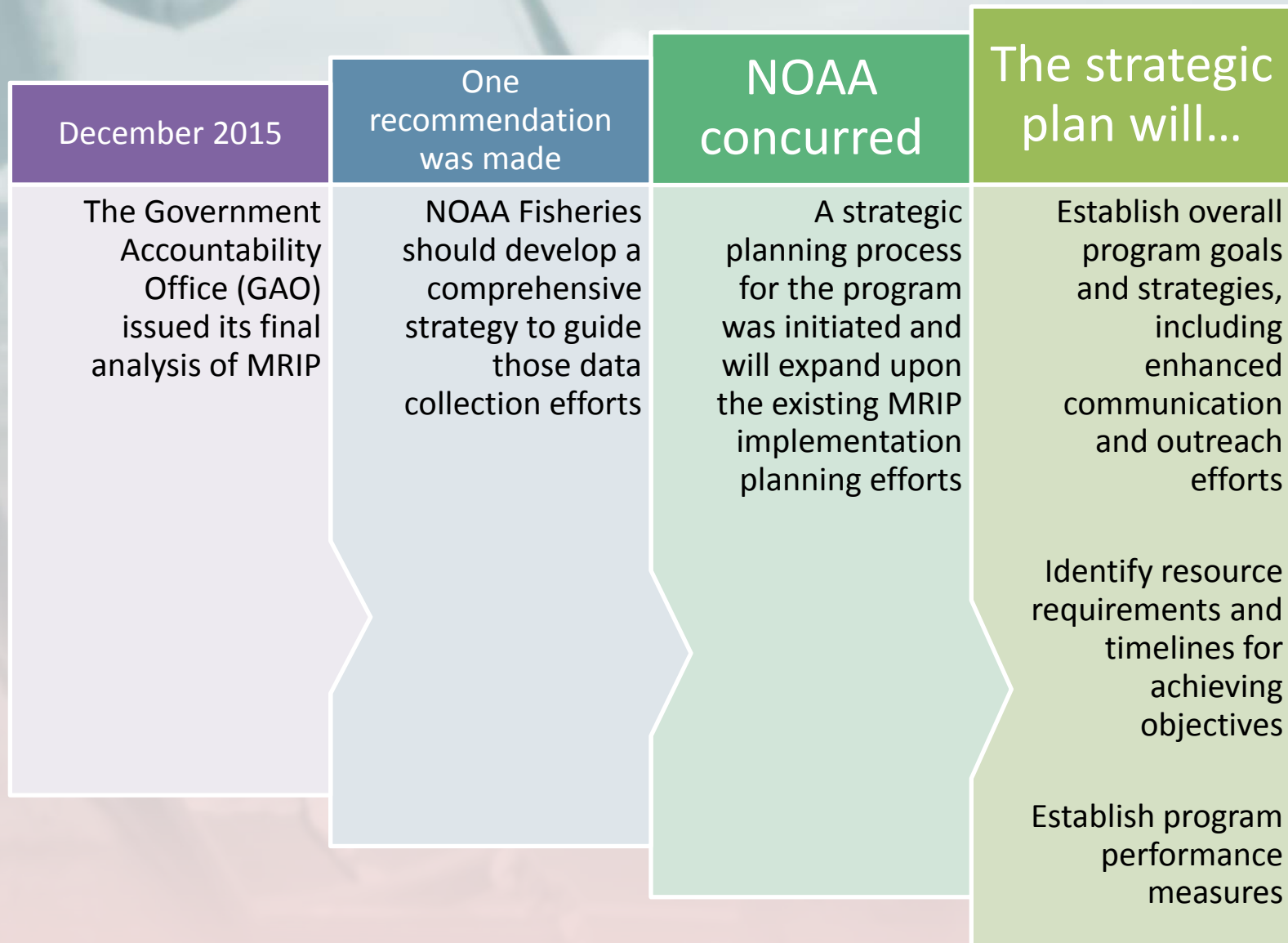
MRIP Update: Regional Implementation Plans

Drafted by regional Fishery Information Networks

Plans include:

- Data collection standards
- Selection of methods from among MRIP-certified designs
- Priorities for improved timeliness, precision, coverage
- Special needs (rare event, pulse fisheries, e.g. HMS, snowy grouper)
- Associated resource needs, costs and planned implementation timelines

MRIP Update: GAO Review





Thank you

U.S. Department of Commerce
| National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration |
NOAA Fisheries |

Recent / Upcoming Actions

Alternative Management Workshop -- May 17-18

- **Findings -- TBD**

Artificial Reef Workshop -- June 9-10

- **ASMFC / NOAA Fisheries**

Recreational Policy Guiding Principles

1. Support ecosystem conservation and enhancement
2. Promote public access to quality recreational fishing opportunities
3. Coordinate with state and federal management entities
4. Advance innovative solutions to evolving science, management, and environmental challenges
5. Provide scientifically sound and trusted social, cultural, economic, and ecological information
6. Communicate and engage with the recreational fishing public

Recreational Catches 2014 (0000s of fish)

| AREA | Total Catch (no. of fish) | Harvested | Released | Percent Released |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------|----------|---------------------|
| Nationally | 392,285 | 155,248 | 237,037 | 60% |
| Southeast Region | 248,797 | 96,866 | 151,931 | 61% |
| SER Relative Contribution | 63% | 62% | 64% | |

....a lot of fish which could live to fight another day!

Total Discard Mortality Estimates by Depth

| Species | Depth (fm) | Previous Surface Mortality Estimate | Mortality with Descending Device | Mortality Estimate w/95% CI |
|--------------------|------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Canary Rockfish | 10-20 | 37% | 22% | 26% |
| | 20-30 | 53% | 22% | 26% |
| | 30-50 | 100% | 37% | 52% |
| | 50-100 | 100% | 37% | 65% |
| Yelloweye Rockfish | 10-20 | 39% | 22% | 27% |
| | 20-30 | 56% | 22% | 27% |
| | 30-50 | 100% | 23% | 28% |
| | 50-100 | 100% | 35% | 65% |
| Cowcod | 30-50 | 100% | 39% | 64% |
| | 50-100 | 100% | 39% | 64% |